

REMARKS

Claims 1-28 are pending in the application. Claims 25-28 have been withdrawn due to restriction. Claims 13-19 and 21-24 have been allowed. The Examiner has indicated that dependent claims 10 and 11 contain allowable subject matter. Claims 1-9, 12, and 20 are rejected.

Claim 1 has been rejected as anticipated by Karpen U.S. 5,961,208 and anticipated by Scott et al. U.S. 6,294,871. Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of Claim 10 which has been indicated by the Examiner to be allowable. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that Claim 1 is in condition for allowance.

Claims 3-9, 11 and 12 each depend from Claim 1 and are thus deemed patentable at least by virtue of their dependence without need to resort to the further patentable limitations recited therein. Allowance of Claims 3-9, 11, and 12 is solicited.

Claims 2 and 10 have been cancelled without prejudice.

Claim 20 is rejected as obvious over Scott et al. in view of Van Vliet et al. 5,973,453. However, the references alone or in combination do not teach all claim limitations. For example, Claim 20 as amended recites, *inter alia*, a “vaporizable fill material comprising halides of sodium and scandium” and “a notch filter formed from a vitreous material containing neodymium oxide”. As the references do not teach all claim limitations, Applicant respectfully submits that Claim 20 is in condition for allowance.

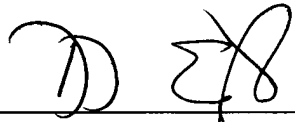
Applicant requests examination of Claims 25 – 28, previously withdrawn due to restriction. The restriction was based on Claim 1 not reciting neodymium oxide. As amended, Claim 1 recites neodymium oxide. As the basis of the restriction has been removed, Applicant respectfully requests favorable examination of Claims 25 – 28.

Applicant further requests consideration and allowance of new dependent Claims 29-33.

No new matter has been added.

A further and favorable action and allowance of all claims is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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